

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 258

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0082

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT DA

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION - NO. 12 - ELECTION RESULTS

REF: COPENHAGEN 0072

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER HARTLING WON A MAJOR VICTORY FOR
HIS LIBERAL PARTY IN THE JAN 9 ELECTION BUT FAILED TO WIN
INCREASED SUPPORT FOR HIS POLICY. A GENERAL SHIFT TO THE
LEFT AND A STRONG SHOWING BY GLISTRUP'S PROGRESS PARTY
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REDUCED THE OVERALL STRENGTH OF THE PARTIES OF THE

POLITICAL CENTER ON WHICH HARTLING DEPENDED FOR SUPPORT OF HIS ECONOMIC CRISIS PLAN. HE WILL ACCORDINGLY BE FORCED TO COMPROMISE WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ON HIS ECONOMIC POLICY, AND HIS CHANCES OF CONTINUING AS PRIME ARE SOMEWHAT LESS CLEAR. END SUMMARY

1. PRIME MINISTER POUL HARTLING EMERGED THE UNDISPUTED ELECTION WINNER AS HIS LIBERAL PARTY ALMOST DOUBLED HIS SIZE FROM 22 TO 42 SEATS. HIS GAINS HOWEVER WERE OBTAINED PRIMARILY AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS ALLIES IN THE CENTER, THE CONSERVATIVES, CENTER DEMOCRATS AND THE RADICALS WHICH HAD SUPPORTED HIS ECONOMIC PLAN. HARTLING LIBERAL CENTER BLOC WAS IN FACT REDUCED FROM 86 SEATS TO 78 A LOSS WHICH WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN FOLKETING APPROVAL WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL COMPROMISE.

2. TWO GENERAL TENDENCIES CAN BE SEEN IN THE OVERALL RESULTS (A) A SHIFT TO THE LEFT OF APPROXIMATELY TEN SEATS AND (B) A CONTINUATION OF THE TREND EXPRESSED IN THE DEC 1973 ELECTION OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT 25 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE SUPPORTED PARTIES ON THE POLITICAL EXTREMES

3. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS DID BETTER THAN EXPECTED WITH THEIR SEVEN SEAT INCREASE ASSURING ANKER JORGENSEN'S CONTINUATION AS LEADER OF THAT PARTY. IN PART SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GAINS ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE NORMAL ADVANTAGE A PARTY IN OPPOSITION ENJOYS IN PART THEY REPRESENT A RETURN OF MANY OF THE VOTERS WHO DEFECTED IN 1973 TO JAKOBSEN'S CENTER DEMOCRATS MOREOVER THE INCREASE IN THE FAR LEFT VOTE WILL STRENGTHEN JORGENSEN'S POSITION IN THE POST-ELECTION NEGOTIATIONS WITH HARTLING.

4. THE SUCCESS OF THE LEFT SOCIALIST IN EXCEEDING THE TWO PERCENT THRESHOLD (THEY SECURE 2.1 PERCENT) EXEMPLIFIES ON THE LEFT THE SAME POPULAR DISSATISFACTION GLISTRUP DOES ON THE RIGHT TENDING TO LOOK FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL SOLUTIONS. THE LEFT SOCIALISTS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN THE RADICAL YOUTH VOTE FROM THE

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COMMUNISTS. THE COMMUNISTS ONE SEAT GAIN REFLECTS AN INCREASE OF STRENGTH AMONG WORKERS. IN TOTAL PERCENTAGE VOTE THE THREE FAR LEFT PARTIES OBTAINED ONLY 11.2 PERCENT INDICATING THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS LEFT WING WAS RELATIVELY FIRM.

5. MOGENS GLISTRUP'S UNEXPECTED SUCCESS IN RETAINING THE GREAT BULK OF HIS 197 SUPPORT (HE LOST ONLY FOUR SEATS TO

THE CENTER) WAS A DEFINITE SETBACK TO HARTLING'S HOPES OF BUILDING AN INCREASED CENTER BLOC BY UNDERMINING GLISTRUP'S PROTEST MOVEMENT.

6. HARTLING CALLED TODAY ON THE QUEEN TO INFORM HER THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE, THE NEW PARLIAMENT WILL CONVENE ABOUT JAN 23 AND HARTLING INTENDS TO NEGOTIATE WITH LEADERS OF OTHER PARTIES IN THE INTERVAL ON A COMPROMISE ECONOMIC POLICY TO BE PRESENTED AT THAT TIME. WHETHER IN FACT HE CAN CONTINUE AFTER JAN 23 WILL DEPEND UPON THOSE NEGOTIATIONS AND PARTICULARLY UPON HIS ACHIEVING AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WHO ARE THE KEY TO A REASONABLE WAGE SETTLEMENT

7. THE RADICALS MAY WELL PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE COMING INTERPARTY NEGOTIATIONS DESPITE THE DRUBBING THEY RECEIVED (13 SEATS AS COMPARED TO THEIR PREVIOUS 21) RADICAL LEADER HILMAR BAUNSGAARD HAS TAKEN BACK HIS THREAT TO FORCE HARTLING BY MEANS OF A NO CONFIDENCE MOTION TO FORM A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT HE INTENDS TO STAY FREE OF ANY FORMAL ALLIANCE WITH EITHER THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS OR THE LIBERAL CENTER BLOC. THUS THE ULTIMATE SHAPE OF THE GOVERNMENT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT HARTLING'S CHANCES TO REMAIN PRIME ARE MORE PRECARIOUS AFTER THE ELECTION.
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